From: Doug Clifton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 7:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlements

To Whom it May Concern,

 I am writing to you to voice my concerns over the recent microsoft settlement and to state that in my professional opinion (as a computer programmer which has (for the past 20 yrs) and continues to use much microsoft technology), the actions that microsoft has continued to exercise in the marketplace are very wrong and counter-active to good fair market development. Given the current situation, if I owned a small company offering a product/service in which microsoft decided to compete, I would immediately try to sell (probably to microsoft) the company while it had any value to speak of. Microsoft has continued it's cycle of waiting for new technologies to arise and then to produce a no cost/low cost product similiar (but competing) to the original. Since microsoft can provide the item at no cost (due to bundling and revenue received by the sale of the Operating System itself) , why would I want to compete with it on a sales/reveue playing field. They can produce good quality products that often drive the others competitors almost out of business while continuing to expand their software base. People are simply not going to purchase a competing product when they can get good to excellent similar products for free with the Operating System. Even for those products where the Operating System is not directly including it, the price of the product is dropped to run the other company's product into non-sales situations, and then the price is considerably raised when they no longer have enough market share to be a competitive threat. There are numerous examples of this even today. I therefore ask that the company be stopped from it's corporation death squeezing plans and that they be made to live up to a fair market strategy where a technology which they want suddenly can not compete with them. Thank you for your time

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